

Madam Speaker, if we ignore the basic requirements of the Constitution, whether by disregarding procedural restraints or overstepping our congressional authority by dictating people's health insurance, we will descend from the freedom of democracy toward the tyranny of a dictatorship.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Medicare will be expanded. Medicaid will be expanded to allow more people to be insured. Our children will have more health insurance. It will be a major change for America—a positive change. It is interesting that every time America makes a historic and catastrophic change for the better, there are large voices of opposition—confused voices; voices without the facts. I'm reminded of the history of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. They did not pass with large margins. The Dixiecrats raised their voices in opposition. Africans Americans, Negroes, should be second-class citizens forever.

It is time now for the courageous to recognize that Americans cannot be second class and third class in the climate of needing health insurance. That they must be able to go to hospitals and not be kicked out; that they must be able to get insurance without saying you have a preexisting disease; that women cannot be discriminated against.

Where's the courage to stand up as we did in the time when African Americans needed their freedom? It is now time to free others who do not have health insurance. Do you have the courage to make these hard decisions when others are chatting away, saying the wrong thing? It is time to pass health care reform. I want to stand with the courageous on behalf of the American people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, it is very difficult to criticize a bill that is still being put together behind closed doors. But we do know that it is more about consolidation of power in Washington than about real health reform for the American people. We also know that a poor process always equals poor public policy, and the procedural shenanigans being proposed by the Speaker and Democratic leaders to slip this past the American people make all of Lucy Ricardo's schemes to be a part of Ricky's show look like clear and logical plans of action. This also would be a comedy if it wasn't such a tragedy for the American people.

Madam Speaker, my State has already instituted real health care solu-

tions that deal with our demographics and give people options in the State of Utah. All of our efforts will be destroyed if this one-size-fits-all, trillion-dollar tragedy is actually passed here on the House floor.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. TERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TERRY. There will be no straight up-and-down vote on a health care bill. Instead, the leadership has chosen a procedural trick to insert the Senate bill into a rule deeming the Senate bill passed. So if you vote for the rule, you are voting for the Cornhusker kickback, the Louisiana purchase, and language that allows funds to flow to abortions. What won't be in this bill is the Terry bill or amendment that allows people to join the same health care plans that we have as Members of Congress. Why? Because it's not controlled by the government and its bureaucrats.

Yes, this is about government control, where bureaucrats and Congress will be in control of your health care. And somehow the leadership and authors of these tricks in this bill wonder why the American people don't want this bill.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, to paraphrase James Agee, "In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances, and of no matter what parents, the potentiality of the entire human race is born all over again." The Democrats say compassion is the fundamental motivation behind this government takeover bill. But if compassion was the motivation, Madam Speaker, Democrat leadership would not be so doggedly determined to include the increased taxpayer-funded murder of little unborn children in this bill. Nothing so completely destroys the notion that this bill is about compassion than the arrogant disenfranchisement of those who are helpless and have no voice. It is an unspeakable disgrace.

Madam Speaker, it is obvious that Democrats are determined to ram this bill down the throats of the American people using the so-called Slaughter solution, a shameless political gimmick that would avoid even an up-or-down vote on the bill. But if they do, Madam Speaker, the world will know that it was never about compassion, and Democrats will find that they have dangerously underestimated the American people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, later this week the Speaker is going to ask the House to take the final vote on health care reform, including the Senate health care bill. The Senate bill contains such rarified legislative compromises as the Cornhusker kickback, the Louisiana purchase, and Gator aid, and for the first time ever, it allows for Federal funding for abortions. Nevertheless, the Speaker has asked us to vote on it. I understand my Democratic colleagues are being assured that the Senate will take up the bill of fixes if the House will simply just pass their underlying reform bill.

I offer a word of caution to my friends on the other side of the aisle: once you pass their bill, there is not a guarantee that can be made that will force the Senate Democrats to take up your fixed bill and pass it. The bill that passed out of the Senate satisfies 59 sitting Senators, all of whom voted for it. The compromise that will pass out of this House will please far fewer. Simple logic tells us that the Senate Democrats do not have a real and abiding interest in bailing out House Democrats for having passed the Senate bill. Of course, simple logic has never really been a part of this debate.

Madam Speaker, my Democratic colleagues are playing a game of chicken with the United States Senate. In the end, the President might just go ahead and sign this Senate bill into law, along with the Cornhusker kickback, Louisiana purchase, Gator aid and abortion funding, and every other twisted deal jumbled into this mess.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, of this massive almost 3,000-page bill, there is not one thing that lowers cost; not one. A recent Heritage Foundation article focused on the fact that the health care system is fraught with perverse economic incentives that generate artificially high and rapidly increasing spending. This system does nothing to incentivize the doctor, the patient or the insurance company, let alone the Federal Government, to spend the health care dollars efficiently. However, I'm not suggesting that patients have to bear higher out-of-pocket costs. By this, the doctor and the patient must be reengaged, however, with the cost of their care. And how can we do that?

One amendment that we have tried to get into this bill a number of times and has failed is a robust system of health savings accounts for all. This way, we get to have our cake and eat it too. By that I mean that a portion of